



Workers' Compensation In Montana : Administrative Inventory



About WCRI

- Independent, not-for-profit research organization
- Has diverse membership support
- Studies are peer-reviewed
- Resource for public officials and stakeholders
 - Published over 100 studies on WC
 - Content-rich website: www.wcrinet.org

WCRI Approach

- Mission: “Be a catalyst for improving WC systems by providing the public with high-quality, credible information on important public policy issues”
- Studies focused on delivery system, not insurance mechanism
- Studies examine both employer costs and worker outcomes
- Not make recommendations nor take positions on issues

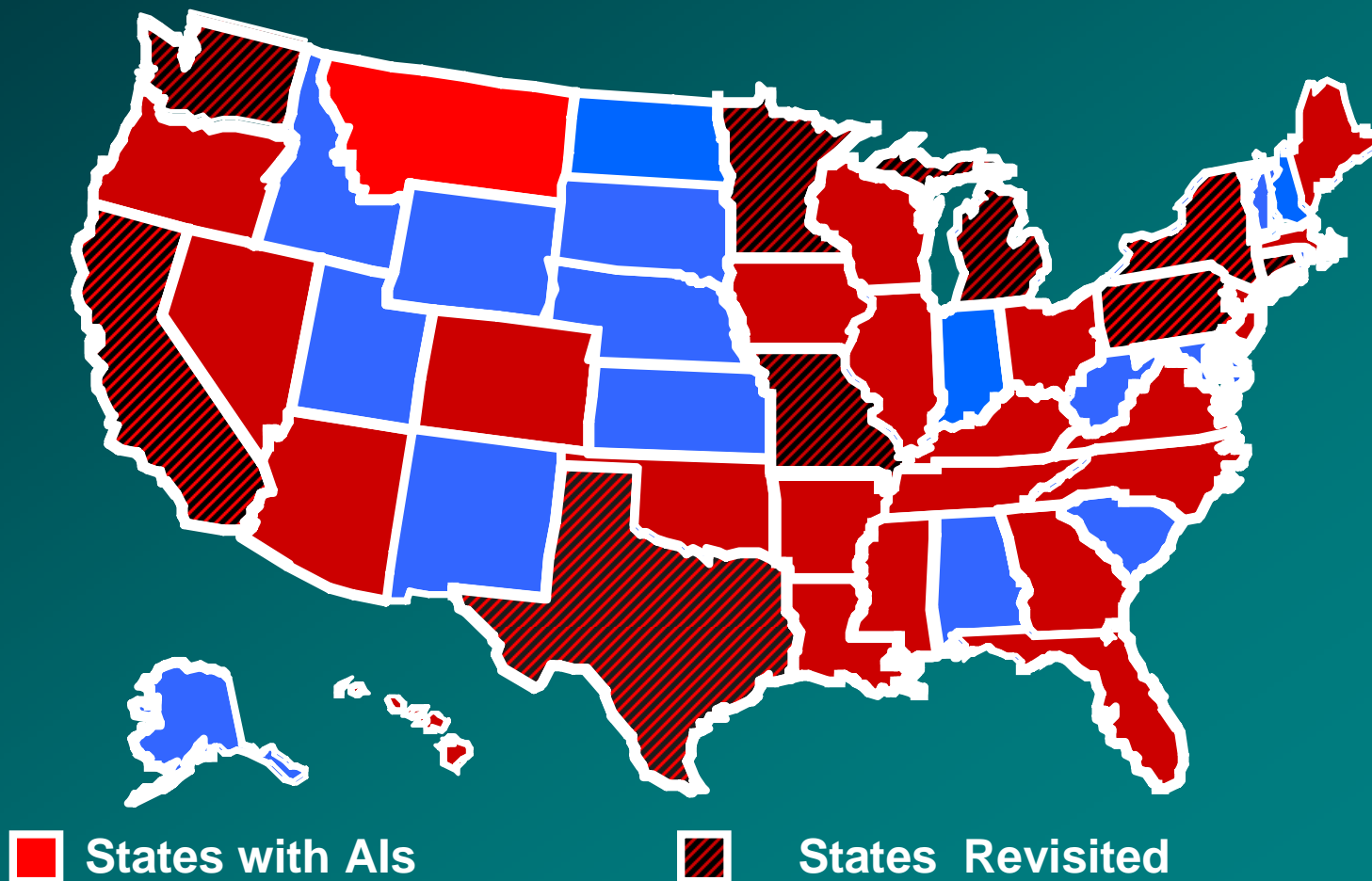
Administrative Inventory Purpose

- Help policymakers and other participants understand features of workers' compensation systems and make informed interstate comparisons

What Is An Administrative Inventory?

- Broad look at benefit delivery system
- Based on elite interviews
- Interstate comparisons where data permit
- Develops attention points (not recommendations)
 - Particular strengths
 - Areas that may warrant further attention
- Does not address insurance market

Administrative Inventory States



Objective Of The Montana Study

- Describe how the Montana system is administered and functions

Scope Of The Montana Study

- How is the system administered?
- What benefits are paid?
- What is the role of special funds and what do they cost?
- How do claims flow through the system?
- How quickly are payments initiated and claims resolved?

Scope Of The Montana Study (Cont.)

- What dispute resolution procedures are used and to what effect?
- How are attorneys involved in the system?
- How litigious is the system?
- What is the workload of the administration?

Scope Of The Montana Study (Cont.)

- What are the costs of administration, benefits, claims processing and litigation?
- What can other states learn from the Montana experience?
- What can Montana learn from the experience of other states?
- What aspects of the system deserve special attention or further inquiry?

Research Approach

- Review statute and literature
- Semistructured interviews
 - Public officials and legislators
 - Insurers
 - Self-insured employers
 - Attorneys for workers
 - Defense attorneys

Research Approach

- Semistructured interviews (cont.)
 - Labor representatives
 - Business representatives
- Descriptive analysis of available data (10-yr. trend where possible)
- Collect and analyze additional data
- Reconcile the information

Caveat

- Montana study will not make interstate comparisons on claim frequencies and benefit costs
 - ERD's Workers' Compensation Study Project will address this

Montana Project Timetable

- Start: May 2006
- Draft to review: October 2006
- Presentation of study findings: January 10, 2007
- Book published: March 2007

For Further Information/Input

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